(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply the following measures have been taken:

— capacity addition

— Modernisation of generation in existing power plants by renovation and modernisation

— reduction in transmission & distribution losses

— coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations

— promotion of inter-stateinter-regional power transfers

— demand side management

— conservation of energy.

(d) and (e) The assessment of future demand of electricity upto 2001-02 was made by 15th EPS Committee for the country including Andhra Pradesh. The 9th and 10th Plan have not yet been finalised.

Sale of Aircraft owned by NHPC

1813. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft owned National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) is lying without any potential use;

(b) if so, whether the company has called any bidders for buying the Air craft; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and name of the highest bidder?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Aircraft available with NHPC had been used sporadically.

(b) Global bids were invited by NHPC in December, 1997.

(c) The following were the valid bidders in order of value of bid:

(i) MS Jetstream Aircraft Sales Inc.,- USA. (ii) MS Condor Avhrtion Partnership, UK.

(iii) M/s Lumbini Airways Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, (iv) *M/s* U.P. Airways Ltd., India.

The highest bidder withdrew his bid subsequently and the second highest bidder did not show interest and intimated his unwillingness to buy the aircraft. The third bidder *viz.* M/s Lumbini Airways Pvt. Ltd., Nepal increased his bid amount after negotiations. This bid has been accepted by NHPC and a Letter of Award was issued in November, 1998.

Restructuring of SEBs

1814. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any action plan to expedite restructuring of SEBs with II phase of reform package;

(b) if so, the details of the steps initiated in this regard during the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the details of present status of the implementation of reform package/struc-tural reforms SEB-wise; and

(d) the details of the schemes drawn up by PFC and other financial Institutions for structural reforms of SEB and upgradation of infrastructure network?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government had evolved a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) based on the consensus reached in the Chief Ministers conferences held in 1996. As mandated by the CMNPP, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 was enacted on 2nd July, 1998 for rationalisation of tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies and matters incidental thereto. In accordance with this Act, the Central Electricity Regulatory commission was established on 25th July, 1998. The Act also contains an enabling provision for the State Governments to set up regulatory commissions. To encourage the States to set up SERCs, it has been decided to give an